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FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT

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INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ASHGABAT 001489

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/13/2018

TAGS: PREL UN AORC TX

SUBJECT: GEORGIAN AMBASSADOR TO TURKMENISTAN LOSES BID FOR
UN COMMITTEE POSITION

REF: ASHGABAT 1422

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires a.i. Sylvia Reed Curran for reasons 1.
4 (B) and (D).

¶1. (C) Georgian Ambassador to Turkmenistan Alexi Petriashvili (please protect) told econoff on November 11 that his bid for a position on the UN Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) (reftel) was unsuccessful: the Russian candidate won. He said that most countries are willing to compromise by taking a position in one election cycle with the understanding that another country can have a chance for the position the next time -- "except Russia." He added that the experience of campaigning for the position and of visiting the UN was beneficial, and that all everyone wants to discuss is "reform, reform, reform, but no one really wants to reform" because it would mean giving up equities.

¶2. (C) COMMENT: Despite his claim that the experience was positive, Petriashvili seemed frustrated by his loss - to a Russian. It should not have been surprising. Odds that the victor would have ceded to a Georgian candidate were zero.

END COMMENT.

CURRAN